



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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28 August 1991

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2,000 Mozambicans in Country After Renamo Attack

*MB2808061691 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0556 GMT 28 Aug 91*

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 28 SAPA—About 2,000 Mozambicans crossed the border into South Africa on Tuesday night after an alleged attack by Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] on the village Ressano Garcia near the Komatipoort border post, reports SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news. A SA [South African] Defence Force spokesman said there had been a mortar and light machine gun attack on the village just before midnight.

Three seriously wounded people were taken to the Shongwe hospital in kaNgwane, while the other wounded were treated at the scene. The refugees would be repatriated once the situation at Ressano Garcia has returned to normal, he said. The defence force would issue a detailed statement later on Wednesday.

U.S. Senators End Visit, Say Sanctions To Stay

*MB2808101391 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0800 GMT 28 Aug 91*

[Text] American financial sanctions will stay in place for the time being. That is the message from two senior United States senators who have just ended a brief visit to South Africa. John Matham attended a media conference prior to their departure at Jan Smuts Airport a short while ago:

[Matham] Senators Paul Simon and Charles Robb said the political realities in the U.S. are that access to the IMF and the World Bank will continue to be denied to South Africa. They said only a clear signal from political leaders inside the country will change that situation. They did not want to specify who these leaders are, but it is clear that ANC [African National Congress] approval for the lifting of financial restraints will be necessary. Simon and Robb said they have three specific concerns. They want constitutional negotiations to move forward, they are worried about the level of violence, and they believe the needs of what they describe as the economic underclass must be met. Despite these concerns they leave South Africa optimistic about its future.

Communist Party Leader Joe Slovo Has Cancer

*MB2708123491 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1000 GMT 27 Aug 91*

[Text] South African Communist Party General Secretary Joe Slovo has cancer of the bone marrow. Slovo, who is a key member of the ANC [African National Congress] negotiating team, told THE STAR newspaper of his illness late last night. There has been much recent speculation about his health after he had been forced to cancel several appointments. The 65-year-old communist party leader says, however, that he is still able to fulfill his duties, as he is responding well to treatment.

SACP Confirmation Reported

*MB2708130091 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1120 GMT 27 Aug 91*

[By David Greybe]

[Text] Johannesburg Aug 27 SAPA—The South African Communist Party [SACP] expressed "great sadness" on Tuesday at the news that its general secretary, and senior ANC [African National Congress] executive member, Joe Slovo, had bone marrow cancer. However, Mr Slovo was "absolutely determined" to continue with his work within the party and the African National Congress, senior SACP member Essop Pahad told SAPA on Tuesday.

He said he had first heard the news on Tuesday morning. THE STAR newspaper later appeared with an article, quoting Mr Slovo, confirming he had cancer. "The morale of the party remains high, but of course we received the news with great sadness," Mr Pahad, a member of the SACP internal leadership group, said. He said he did not know how serious Mr Slovo's cancer was.

"It is not absolutely clear what it means, but he will continue with his tasks within the ANC and the SACP. Whilst it is debilitating, it is not destructive because he is able to continue performing his tasks."

Mr Pahad was not sure when Mr Slovo found out he had cancer, "but he hasn't been feeling well for the past few weeks" The party would adopt a wait-and-see attitude concerning Mr Slovo's workload.

There had been recent speculation about the state of Mr Slovo's health after he was forced to cancel several appointments.

THE STAR reported he was "responding to treatment and is able to fulfil his duties".

"It need not interfere with my work," Mr Slovo was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

Mr Pahad emphatically dismissed speculation about Mr Slovo relinquishing his position as SACP general secretary in the near future.

"Our position is that our national congress is to be held in December and it is congress that will decide who will fill the party's leading positions.

"At this moment he remains the general secretary of the SACP."

Mr Slovo was locked in a meeting at the ANC headquarters in Johannesburg on Tuesday, and not immediately for comment.

Mr Pahad added the ANC had still to decide on the SACP request earlier this year to release the ANC's military chief of staff, Chris Hani, for full-time duty in the SACP leadership.

He expected the ANC's national executive committee would debate the issue at its next meeting.

ANC Comments on NP Constitutional Proposals

MB2608122291 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1131 GMT 26 Aug 91

[By Peter Claassen; Following is a fuller version of an item published in the 26 August Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT, in the Republic of South Africa section on page 7, column one, subheaded "ANC Comments on NP Proposals"]

[Text] Cape Town August 26 SAPA—The National Party's [NP] constitutional proposals, leaked to a Sunday newspaper at the weekend, was an acceptable formula for an interim government but too far-fetched to be permanent, top ANC sources said on Monday. Constitutional lawyers of the movement who studied the proposals said the National Party was involved in a fanciful exercise to entrench what would ultimately be recognised as ethnic rights.

The federal structure creating nine regional governments would not only create more bureaucracies but would effectively deny the majority party the right to govern. "Basically it denies the consequences of what is meant by a democratic South Africa," a foremost constitutional committee member said. "It limits or denies the consequences of majority rule and it will make the task of reconstruction very difficult."

The ANC had never asked for black majority rule, the sources stressed. It merely wanted restrictions, such as a bill of rights and a constitutional court, placed on a unitary and majoritarian democracy.

The NP's proposals were a continuation of the current direction and offered nothing new from that point of view.

The proposals for a rotating ruling committee of three or five and a proportionately representative cabinet would simply make the country ungovernable. "More appropriately this would be how an interim government should be constituted and function," one analyst said. "It cannot be suggested for indefinite government, it is too far-fetched to be permanent."

The proposals sought to impose a federal structure on a highly unitary state for the first time. Internationally federations had been created between autonomous states, but here it was being artificially imposed on an essentially unitary political and economic system.

The PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging] area had two-thirds of the country's wealth and population and it was difficult to see how this fact could be factored into a federal model.

"We hope this is simply a negotiation position," was the shared view among the ANC [African National Congress] experts.

Political analysts agree that the NP's [National Party] proposals are some distance away from likely acceptance or confirmation in the negotiation process. The unitary/federal concept is earmarked for settling in the first, many say constitutionally decisive, round of multi-party talks aimed at setting down the principles on which a new constitution is to be negotiated.

The most intense give-and-take trading will lay the foundation on which a Constituent Assembly, probably proportionately elected, will ultimately lay the detailed brick and mortar of the constitution itself.

Further on ANC Reaction

MB2708142891 London BBC World Service in English
0430 GMT 27 Aug 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] A leak by the Afrikaner newspaper, RAPPOR, has revealed National Party [NP] plans to change the Constitution and abolish the country's three Houses of Parliament. The plan would extend the vote to blacks, but has been criticized for proposing a new federal system.

Well, the NP has said that the RAPPOR leak is only a draft and not the final blueprint. Akwe Amosu spoke to ANC [African National Congress] Executive member Kader Asmal, a key member of the ANC's Constitutional Review Commission, and asked him what he made of the proposal.

[Begin recording] [Asmal] Well this is obviously putting their own [word indistinct] for the all-party congress which, everybody expects, will begin fairly soon. It [words indistinct] sufficient details in certain areas. In other areas, it is very vague and ambiguous. The initial reaction is that, basically, the National Party wants to have a weak central government, diffuse their power in regional and local government, to ensure that the enormous tasks for reconstruction and development in South Africa will never take place.

[Amosu] So you are saying that in fact, despite the fact that the plan envisages one person, one vote, you still think that this is going to be a (?loaded) Parliament?

[Asmal] Well it had over the last two years conceded one person, one vote, but every other proposal denies the effect of one person, one vote. One person, one vote is only reflected in the elections for the lower houses. Beyond that, there are so many effective [words indistinct] majority rule that one [words indistinct] that the constitutional proposals are meant to ensure that certain interests [words indistinct] government level, certain values associated with race privilege are maintained.

[Amosu] How, exactly, does the National Party proposal make it impossible for the will of the majority to triumph?

[Asmal] How they will interfere with the majority is the normal consequence [word indistinct] the British Parliament, in Australia, Canada, other democratic countries, it is party that wins the majority of seats may, like in Namibia [words indistinct] constitutionally, there has to be a coalition in the Cabinet. All parties with significant support [words indistinct] members of Cabinet. Secondly, there cannot be a single president. They limited powers, you know, ceremonial powers [words indistinct] here will be an executive college of two to five presidents but this is the kind of very [words indistinct] preposterous proposals. They are made with a particular view in mind. They will be at the level [words indistinct] implementation so the (?consequent) majority rule will never operate.

[Amosu] Is it not actually important in the South African context to make sure that there is provision for minority voices to get expressed at the highest levels of government?

[Asmal] But of course and the most important level of government I can see is the Parliament. The ANC pioneered the proposal that there should be proportional representation. On the list system, the most democratic system which [words indistinct] has supported and this will give anyone with any kind of constituency a voice in parliament. Secondly, we propose that there should be a fundamental bill of rights with the constitutional court, the highest court in the country, which will maintain, protect, and observe the bill of rights.

[Amosu] Quite clearly, the ANC is not going to accept their proposals. Do you anticipate, in fact, that this is just an opening gambit and that another proposal will be in the pipeline?

[Asmal] Our view is only a constituent assembly elected by the people can decide the constitution [words indistinct] party congress without any mandates. Remember, only five percent of the population in South Africa voted for this government and neither the ANC nor the government has authority, the right, to decide the constitution but the proposals are so far-fetched, the proposals are so much for the maintenance of the status quo [words indistinct] racism that it cannot provide the basis for meaningful negotiations. [end recording]

DP Slams NP Cancellation of Parys Meeting

*MB2708080191 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0500 GMT 27 Aug 91*

[Text] The Democratic Party [DP] says the National Party's [NP] decision to scrap a meeting sets a dangerous precedent of giving in to threats by political disrupters. The NP's Orange Free State leader Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee cancelled a meeting set to take place in Parys last night because of fears that the AWB [Afrikaner Resistance Movement] would cause chaos and confrontation.

DP Law and Order Spokesman Peter Gastrow says this is a time when all political groups should stand firm to protect the rights of free speech and association.

Reformed National Party on De Klerk Banning SACP

*MB2708163091 Johannesburg South African
Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1500 GMT 27 Aug 91*

[Text] The Herstigte Nasionale Party [HNP—Reformed National Party] has written to the state president asking him to ban the South African Communist Party [SACP] again if the ANC [African National Congress] does not sever its ties with the SACP. The leader of the HNP, Mr. Jaap Marais, pointed out in the letter that the recent events in the Soviet Union had discredited communism totally and that the SACP therefore had no claim to recognition in South Africa.

28 Aug Press Review on Current Events, Issues

MB2808093791

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Extra Funds Must Be Used for Black Upliftment—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 28 August in a page 22 editorial welcomes the government's injection of 1 billion rands, as a result of the sale of oil reserves, into black upliftment projects, saying: "That such a large figure will make only the most modest of dents in the socio-economic backlog is frightening, but this does not mean Pretoria's announcement should be greeted with cynicism. It seems belatedly to have dawned on the National Party [NP] government that public spending priorities can never revert to what they were before: if there is any money around, it must go primarily (as it should have done long ago) to black upliftment." Pretoria must ensure that the way in which the funds are used "is beyond reproach," and if this is done, "we will be able to say with some satisfaction that a small but important step into the future has been taken."

BUSINESS DAY

Government Must Not Abandon Free Speech Principle—"If it allows right-wing thugs to turn rural towns into no-go areas for Nationalist politicians, government will be conceding more than political territory," warns a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 28 August. "It will be abandoning the principle of free speech and its newfound claim to be a defender of democracy." "With or without agreement with groups such as the right-wing AWB [Afrikaner Resistance Movement], NP speakers must be assured of their right to address meetings in conservative areas. If that means ringing the town or the town hall with troops and police, so be it; wholesale arrests on charges of public

violence would also help." "Freedom of speech is indivisible; if government cannot protect its own speakers, the louts threaten us all."

SOWETAN

National Party Angers Conservative Whites—"It is clearly becoming difficult for the NP to call meetings in country towns," points out Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 28 August in its page 8 editorial. "In many country areas the whites are voting for the Conservative Party. This is a new experience for the NP. In response to black outrage the NP has 'begun a more consultative style.'" "This, of course, has angered conservative whites who believe that the clock of history can still be turned back." "The face of South Africa is changing. Conservative whites are bound to be angry. Let them be angry. They cannot change the way things are going to be. If the NP feels unhappy about having to cancel its meeting in Parys let it organise a meeting in Soweto."

* ARMSCOR Restructuring Plans Detailed

91AF1313A Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE
in Danish 8 Aug 91 p 11 8

[Article by Peter Tygesen: "South Africa's Weapon Industry: From Self-Propelled Cannons to Beer Cans"—first two paragraphs are BERLINGSKE TIDENDE introduction]

[Text] Cannon barrels to beer cans is seemingly a logical development in South Africa, now that the nation's warlike and beer-guzzling inhabitants have made peace with Angola, delivered Namibia to independence, and initiated negotiations with their traditional enemy, the ANC [African National Congress].

The beer cans were an early by-product of the refined steel that was necessary for the nation's famous G-5 cannon. Now, collaboration between the arms industry and civilian manufacturing has expanded to much more important areas. A quiet revolution has been taking place in South Africa's industry in recent years, whereby the technological leadership of the arms industry is being harnessed to civilian industry.

"The arms industry is one of the very few South African manufacturing areas doing product development. The country's most advanced technology and best technicians are concentrated in Armscor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa]," said industrial analyst Lyndon Birns in the financial newspaper, BUSINESS DAY, of the weapons manufacturer.

"Armscor's transference of technology to civilian industry is, therefore, a very welcome lift to the economy."

The arms industry's hope of survival appears, nevertheless, to be against the odds. International weapons sanctions will restrict export for some years to come, while local sales will fall even further, following dramatic

reductions of defense purchases in the last two years which have led to a drop in earnings of 30 percent.

The transfer of technology to civilian industry will both generate income and raise awareness that Armscor is an important asset for South Africa's future.

Sources in civilian industry are agreed that the most important influence from military production currently has been a stricter quality control.

"A discrepancy of a mere millimeter in a cannon barrel or a guidance device can make a military product costing many billions worthless," says Helmoed-Romer Heitman, South African correspondent for the British JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY.

Armscor laboratories are the nation's best. Civilian industry's access to them has improved local automotive manufacturers' products in particular.

Armscor is happy to disclose, in general terms, the transfer of technology the concern has made to civilian industry, but clams up quickly when asked for concrete examples.

"No comment," says information Chief Johan Adler quickly when you wish to know what auto manufacturer has benefited from the Atlas casting process developed for turbine propellers on jet motors.

"You have to understand that many South African industries are daughter companies of international concerns which would encounter immediate problems if it were known that they work together with Armscor."

There has always been close cooperation between Armscor's five divisions and civilian industry. Ever since Armscor was founded in 1965 as a countermeasure to the UN arms embargo against the apartheid government, 975 civilian industrial partners have supplied components to the concern.

Reductions in the defense budget, together with streamlining measures, have cut the number of employed at Armscor down from 28,000 in 1985 to a current level of 18,000. It began actively last year to offer its expertise to private industry.

That has already resulted in a number of new products, one of which is a simple "rock crusher" that can with the aid of water and a special priming composition pulverize rock without the use of explosives. It is used especially by entrepreneurs for the digging of foundations and swimming pools.

Other products are: a sonar detector for the fishing industry, originally developed for the navy's submarine detection system, a low frequency radio which can send conversation through underground rock in the deepest mining galleries; raw materials for the paint industry (nitro-cellulose is also the base for explosives), wear-resistant ceramic materials, developed for tanks, may be

used in pumps and to strengthen the surfaces of the conveyor belts that bring mineral ore up from the mines.

Many civilian products arise from technical land reclamation carried out by the daughter company Eloptro, which makes optics systems. The firm has developed laser-based guidance devices for bombers and missiles and has developed a hooded guidance mechanism for the pilots of the combat helicopter, Rooivalk, which has been modified for use in the mining industry.

The civilian industry will not discuss this PDU-101 hood-mounted guidance mechanism for drilling rock either—again out of fear of international reaction.

Armcor admits that most South African mining companies are interested in the guidance mechanism for which a civilian version was developed six months ago. "It will have a colossal advantage in drilling holes for explosives," said Adler. "The rockface is marked with a color where the holes are to be drilled," he said. "But after every drilling, the markings are covered with dust, so that the whole process has to be stopped and the rockface sprayed down in order to find the next marking."

With the infrared PDU-101 guidance device the drilling machine operator can see the markings through the dust and continue his drilling undisturbed.

Armcor has played a definitive role in the modernization of South Africa's defense, which made it possible for the country to conduct a protracted and offensive war in Angola. Decades of underfinancing the military intensified the crisis the defense establishment found itself in when the UN imposed the international arms embargo in 1965.

"When the army invaded Angola for the first time in 1975, it was with equipment from World War II," Heitman explained.

Angola's armaments, including advanced Soviet war materiel, made it imperative for Armcor to pull out all the stops in order to supply the army and air force with better equipment.

With sales last year of 25 million rands above the budgeted 105 million rands, the civilian program is off to a good start. Armcor estimates that the desired objective of 750 million rands over a five year period is realistic.

Export earnings are crucial to recoup cutbacks of about 2.5 billion rands, and here already the concern has had good indications.

Currently more than 50 countries have been customers in Armcor's boutique despite the arms embargo, buying tanks, cannons, frequency-hopping radios, ammunition, nighttime guidance systems, and other products. The reason for the success in export, say South Africans, is that the quality of the weapons has been constantly improved, refined, and not least, proven through 15 years of constant warfare.

"Armcor makes equipment that is relatively simple, but dependable," says Heitman, who considers that the concern has a good chance of maintaining its international position as weapons exporter. "The market is at a standstill for the moment," he says. "The big customers are not buying anything new and the small customers are waiting to see what the big ones will put up for sale."

Armcor cannot sell to "the big ones," but has a good chance of selling to the "small ones," says Heitman, not least because the concern has a great deal of experience in modernizing equipment threatened with obsolescence.

It was a necessity, for example, because South Africa could not replace its aging French Mirage jets.

As a consequence of the close collaboration between producer and the soldier in the field, South African equipment has a number of small features which improve the effectiveness of the troops.

"The new transportable field radar has, for example, an inbuilt coffee machine," Heitman grins, just as the fast-moving Ratel tank carries 100 liters of drinking water.

The flagship of Armcor's production is the G-5 cannon, the only cannon that can with great precision hit a target up to 45 kilometers from the firing point.

The cannon was a significant part of the export to Iraq, whose desire for armaments went hand in hand with South Africa's need for oil due to the blockade. In all, 250 G-5 cannons were supplied in the mid 1980's, and because the allied armies did not possess cannons with a corresponding range, the South African weapons were a significant threat to "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf's invading troops.

The cannons and the self-propelled G-6 variant were also responsible for making 1990 the most successful export year so far. Although the total figure for the year is secret, the sale of 70 G-5 cannons to the United Arab Emirates, alone, brought in 700 million rands (approx 1.75 billion kroner).

In the battle to survive, Armcor's rescuer could paradoxically turn out to be its old enemy, the ANC [African National Congress], which is expected to take over governmental power within a few years. South African newspapers reveal that last month a delegation from the liberation movement's underground army, with supreme commander Chris Hani at its head, had a series of meetings with representatives from the French arms industry. The subject was not weapons sales, but joint production," Hani admits.

Angola**Verification Commission To Investigate Equipment***MB2708203491 Luanda Radio Nacional Network
in Portuguese 1900 GMT 27 Aug 91*

[Statement by Abel Chivukuvuku, representative of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola on the Joint Political and Military Commission in Luanda on 27 August]

[Text] The Joint Political and Military Commission, CCPM, has just concluded its 12th ordinary session. Initially, the agenda of the meeting provided for the discussion of four points, but it only assessed the work done by CCPM over the last two months and discussed the decision of the Joint Verification and Control Commission, CMVF, concerning the alleged arrival at Luanda harbor of lethal military equipment belonging to the government.

Session Spokesman Abel Chivukuvuku had the following to say:

[Begin Chivukuvuku recording] Regarding the first issue, I shall read an account of the CCPM's performance during its first two months. The CCPM has held 12 ordinary working sessions since 17 June. As a supervising organ responsible for ensuring the implementation of the peace accords, the CCPM is happy that the Angolan people have been living up to their promise of ending the 16-year armed conflict. The CCPM sees as positive the work done so far because it has greatly helped implement the measures agreed by the two sides, clarify doubts and new problems [words indistinct] before the signing of the peace accords, and overcome occurrences and incidents that are inevitable in this kind of situation.

The stability of the process and the climate of understanding are being guaranteed by a committed observance of fundamental peace principles. The fact that those principles have never been queried has permitted agreement regarding efforts to respect negotiation deadlines. The CCPM has sought to find solutions and ways that will allow it, and those commissions under its supervision fully to respect the three foundations of the peace process: the cease-fire; the training of the Angolan Armed Forces; and the holding of internationally supervised, free, and fair elections.

The issues discussed and mentioned in the report [words indistinct] three commissions under its responsibility. It was decided to accelerate the pace of implementation of the following measures: First, the CMVF will be responsible for confining and supplying the troops. Second, the Armed Forces Joint Commission, CCFA, must approve the general bases for the creation of the Angolan Armed Forces, prepare their placement areas, and plan military instruction for the new personnel so that the Angolan Armed Forces can come into being.

The Political Commission will be responsible for drawing up a calendar for the electoral process, finalizing the political prisoner release process, instituting mechanisms to verify police neutrality, and carrying out tasks [words indistinct] such as the free movement of people and goods.

The second point on the agenda of the meeting concerned the arrival at Luanda Harbor of lethal military equipment belonging to the Angolan Government. This happened on 25 August 1991. We must inform the Angolan people that that equipment included a BTR-152 assault vehicle, 16 Ural military vehicles, and 43 Bedford military vehicles. The CCPM listened to a report given the CMVF by the Angolan Government, according to which those military vehicles were returning to the country after undergoing repairs in Great Britain under the terms of a contract signed in 1989.

The CMVF has been made responsible for verifying the accuracy of the Angolan Government's information. These vehicles, particularly the BTR-152 assault vehicle, will remain under CMVF control while the matter is being investigated. These were the findings of the 12th CCPM session today. [end recording]

FAPLA Reportedly Rearming in Huila Province*MB2808083491 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance
of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern
and Central Africa 0500 GMT 28 Aug 91*

[Text] The Vorgan [Voice of the Resistance of the Black Cockerel] correspondent in Huila Province reports that in violation of the peace process, the People's Republic of Angola Government is rearming the FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] soldiers stationed along the road between Mineira and (Lavaria), near Jamba-Catruca village. It should be noted that the FAPLA troops in the area received Soviet-made AK-47 weapons. Allegedly, this was to enhance security in the area but the CMVF [Joint Verification and Control Commission] was not consulted about it.

Madagascar**Detail's of Razanamasy's New Government Discussed***EA2708111091 Mayotte Radio France Overseas
in French 1600 GMT 26 Aug 91*

[Text] Madagascar—The government of Prime Minister Guy Razanamasy includes 24 members. The composition of the government was made public at noon today before a few officials and various representatives of foreign countries. Immediately we pass you to Isabelle [last name indistinct] for an initial analysis of this government:

[Isabelle] [Words indistinct] members of Guy Razanamasy's government [words indistinct], it represents civilians. They are technocrats; that is to say they are

practical men. The new government does not include representatives of the active forces, of Militants for the Establishment of a Proletarian Regime, or of the Christian Council of Churches in Madagascar. As you know, no agreement was reached after several rounds of negotiations.

Only two military officers hold key posts: General Ravelomitsanga becomes minister of the Armed Forces, and Colonel Rabotoarison becomes interior minister. They are not key figures in the Armed Forces.

On the other hand, two people from Didier Ratsiraka's entourage were appointed: Jean-Baptiste Ramanant-salama, secretary general of the presidency, becomes minister of state for decentralization; and Ferdinand Ranafikely, former director of national police, is appointed minister delegate for security. These two men [word indistinct] rejected by the opposition, and probably [word indistinct] by President Didier Ratsiraka.

The appointment of Jean-Jacques Rakotoniana as minister of state for industry and mines is a surprise. He occupied the same post in the active forces' government appointed [words indistinct], he [words indistinct] on 23 July, ever since he disassociated himself from the opposition. A name which is familiar in Malagasy opposition circles is Cesaïre Rabenoro, brother of Aubert Rabenoro, leader of the active forces in France. He is appointed minister of foreign affairs.

Three ministries have disappeared: the Ministry of Supplies, the Ministry of Civil Service, and the Ministry of Information is temporarily joined to the Office of the Prime Minister.

While Guy Razanamasy was introducing the government to [words indistinct] the leaders of the active forces called for toughening the strike at a meeting in 13 May Square. There will be total paralysis tomorrow, whereas the legally appointed ministers are expected to settle in their ministries tomorrow. With whom will they work? That is the big question.

Guy Razanamasy [words indistinct]. This morning, he [words indistinct] governmental responsibility [words indistinct]. Guy Razanamasy gave himself six months to put Madagascar on the path to democracy, a bet which currently seems lost.

300,000 People Protest New Government 27 Aug

AB2708194091 Paris AFP in English 1854 GMT
27 Aug 91

[By Jean-Pierre Campagne]

[Text] Antananarivo, Aug 27 (AFP)—Madagascar's opposition Lifeblood Committee rallied 300,000 people in the capital on Tuesday in a protest at the government named by Prime Minister Guy Razanamasy, witnesses said. For more than an hour, delegations of strikers marched in May 13 Square, where for almost three

months the opposition has been holding demonstrations to demand that President Didier Ratsiraka stand down.

"Razanamasy equals Ratsiraka!", "Ratsiraka Assassin!" and "Ratsiraka Out!" read the banners at Tuesday's protest. Large contingents of striking staff from Air Madagascar and the Indian Ocean island's banks were among the crowd.

Some of the demonstrators have been gathering virtually every day in the square, cheering at the slogans and singing songs. They said that if they had to, they would bring their umbrellas when the rains begin in November.

The 16-party Hery Velona, or Lifeblood Committee, coalition claims to have "deposed" Admiral Ratsiraka and refuses to cooperate with the government formed on Monday by Razanamasy. The demonstrators booed and hissed as Lifeblood Committee spokesman Richard Andriamanjato attacked members of the new team by name. Particularly criticised was Jean-Jacques Rakotoniana, a former supporter of the opposition who has become minister of state for industry and mines.

"We do not accept this government. We're going to make it known that nothing can be done without us," Pastor Andriamanjato said. "We're waiting for President Ratsiraka to say just one thing: I'm going."

Albert Zafy, prime minister in a transition government formed by Hery Velona, described Razanamasy's team as a puppet administration. "We're not backing down until we win," he said.

Ratsiraka remained entrenched in his palace south of the capital in spite of almost daily demonstrations and strikes, protected by North Korean-trained guards who killed 31 unarmed demonstrators on August 10.

"The Lifeblood Committee has no weapons, there's no point in going back to the palace," one long-standing protestor told AFP on Tuesday. But she added that if the opposition abandoned its policy of non-violence, she would be ready to march on Ratsiraka's residence.

Trade union leaders called Tuesday for a total stoppage in Antananarivo, where strikers closed the international airport until the afternoon. Demonstrations were expected to continue on Wednesday.

Lifeblood Committee leaders failed however to give any indication of their future plans to oust Ratsiraka, leading one observer to comment on "a strange political paralysis among the opposition."

Razanamasy on Monday told his colleagues that their new task was a "suicide mission", as opposition leaders spurned his offers of government posts in spite of days of negotiations.

Ending 11 weeks of strikes will be no easy task for him, confronted with the opposition's ability to mobilise its supporters. "Even if I don't get paid, I'll stay on strike until Ratsiraka goes," one secretary at the trade ministry

said Tuesday. Civil servants, currently awaiting their August pay checks, form a large part of the opposition.

The patience and determination of the crowds in the streets may help the opposition win its war of attrition against the Ratsiraka government, despite an apparent lack of decisiveness in the opposition leadership, observers said Tuesday.

Mozambique

Renamo 'Presidential Office' in Gorongosa Attacked

MB2808095291 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Text] The Mozambique Armed Forces [FAM] attacked the so-called Mozambique National Resistance, Renamo, Presidential Office in Nhazoze area, in Sofala Province's Gorongosa District last week. The FAM chief of General Staff said that during the incursion, the FAM forces captured the Renamo political delegate for Gorongosa District and a training official.

The FAM chief of General Staff also reported that FAM captured an assortment of war materiel, including six 60mm mortars, and more than 400 shells for 60mm and 82mm mortars.

The source also stated that the Mozambique Armed Forces killed 25 Renamo armed bandits in Copa area, also in Gorongosa District. A total of 61 AKM-47 [as heard] weapons were captured during this operation.

Renamo Wants Southern African Conference

MB2708204791 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1920 GMT 27 Aug 91

[Text] Reports from Lisbon, the Portuguese capital, say that Mozambique National Resistance, Renamo, President Afonso Dhlakama wants the southern African countries to hold a conference on the Mozambique peace process. Quoting Manuel Franque, the Renamo spokesman in Lisbon, the Portuguese media reports that Mozambican Government-Renamo talks will only resume after the aforesaid conference is held.

It should be noted that Afonso Dhlakama's proposal neither mentions a date for the conference nor what countries will be invited to attend it. The Italian mediators had planned the next round of Mozambican Government-Renamo talks for September.

Official 'Concern' Noted

MB2808110791 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1035 GMT 28 Aug 91

[Interview with Transport and Communications Minister Armando Emilio Guebuza, head of the Mozambican Government team to the Rome peace talks, by unidentified Radio Mozambique reporter in Maputo on 28 August]

[Text] Portugal's LUSA news agency reports that Manuel Franque, Renamo's [Mozambique National Resistance] spokesman in Lisbon, has said that Renamo President Afonso Dhlakama has proposed that southern African countries hold a conference to discuss the Mozambican peace process. This morning, Radio Mozambique approached Transport and Communications Minister Armando Emilio Guebuza, who is also the head of the Mozambican Government team to the Rome peace talks, to comment on Renamo's statement.

[Begin Guebuza recording] Should Mr. Franque's statement actually reflect Renamo's position, then it must be viewed as a source of serious concern to the Mozambican Government. The Mozambican Government and Renamo recently held talks in Rome, but this was not mentioned. Rome's role as the peace talks venue was not even brought up. No reference was made to the mediators who have actively participated in the process and who might eventually facilitate it. Moreover, we know that this process was temporarily interrupted because Renamo did not agree with a proposal presented by the mediators. That proposal aimed to make the negotiation process more disciplined.

It should also be noted that the media widely reported that Renamo had said that another reason for the interruption was that the Mozambique Liberation Front, Frelimo, was holding its Sixth Congress in the country. Well the Sixth Congress is now over. The talks were scheduled to resume in mid-September. Both sides have the documents in their hands so that they can analyze and reflect on them. There was no mention of any other force participating in the process. We view this development with profound regret if, in fact, it represents Renamo's official position. Should that be the case, the objective is to frustrate the Mozambican people's peace efforts. It will be another plan for procrastination and diversion. [end recording]

RSA Said To Continue Support for Renamo

MB2708112291 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0800 GMT 27 Aug 91

[Text] A former major in the South African [RSA] military intelligence said in Maputo yesterday that Pretoria is still helping antigovernment rebels in Mozambique. Accompanied by two Mozambicans who said they had been press-ganged into the South African Army, Nico Basson told a media briefing yesterday that Pretoria is continuing to support Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] as part of a total strategy despite a 1984 nonaggression pact. The South African Government has previously denied allegation by Basson and other former members of the security forces that it still has links with the rebels.

Chissano Returns to Maputo From SADCC 27 Aug

*MB2708151291 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network
in Portuguese 1400 GMT 27 Aug 91*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Joaquim Chissano returned to Maputo this afternoon. On his arrival he was received by Marcelino dos Santos, chairman of the Assembly of the Republic, and other government officials.

Zambia

Election Observer Group Head Discusses Findings

*MB2708114091 London BBC World Service in English
0430 GMT 27 Aug 91*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The first group of international observers who will monitor the Zambian elections later this year have just concluded their preliminary fact-finding mission. Several problems have been identified, including the apparent withdrawal by the Zambian courts of an earlier court ruling allowing free media access for all political parties.

Well (Maria Lesna), a Swedish MP [member of parliament] who headed the observer group, is now in Stockholm. Earlier on, on the line to Stockholm, I asked her why she thought media access for the oppositions had been withdrawn:

[Begin recording] [(Lesna)] I don't know and I don't wish to speculate on it. I just regret that they made such a decision because it seems that this will make it more difficult for opposition parties to (?tackle) advertisements accepted on the television and radio.

[Mokhele] Now this would obviously go against the whole idea of being seen to be free and fair, the fact that the government will act unfairly against the opposition in terms of media access. Why should the Zambian Government want to be seen as unfair? I would have thought that the whole idea of having you as a monitoring group would have been to facilitate the holding of free elections?

[(Lesna)] I am positive that the Zambian Government certainly does want to be fair and just. I have no doubt on that. The people we talked to certainly reassured us that was their intention and ambition.

[Mokhele] Now there are several things which your report, your preliminary statement, brings out. For

instance, the whole election, the date of the elections, has as yet to be announced. Why has it not been announced, and do you foresee a problem arising out of this delay to announce the elections?

[(Lesna)] Certainly there will be a problem if the date of the elections is not announced soon. The impression that we got from most people and government officials was that the elections were to take place during the month of October. Now the closer we get to the month of October, the more difficult it will be to organize the administration of the elections as the date is not known in advance because there is a certain number of weeks that the Election Commission will need to organize everything and to get all things in place. It's pretty certain that the elections will take place in October. That is what we heard from everybody. However, I believe it will do all parties good in Zambia if the announcement of the elections day could come out in the very near future.

[Mokhele] What about the funding which the ruling party, UNIP [United National Independence Party], is currently enjoying from the government? How will that affect this election?

[(Lesna)] Well also here we are dealing with the problem with the transition from the one-party system to the multiparty system and, even though we noticed the dedication of authorities and everyone else to adapt to a multiparty system, in the administration sphere we had some difficulties going on, and one of them is that the funding to political parties from government stems from the old one-party system. That means that only UNIP has government funds and that was a decision that was taken together with the budget for this year.

[Mokhele] From what you say and from the contents of your statement, it would appear that the Zambian Government has still a lot more work to do and to achieve to gain international credibility as necessary in this preelection period. Would that be correct?

[(Lesna)] Well I would not be so negative because I must also say that we found a very clear ambition and a dedication to pursue these elections in a fair and just manner. It is also important to recognize that Zambia has moved very quickly in a very short time in this quite difficult transition from the one-party to the multiparty system and that the process is still there. Things are happening almost every day, so I would not be that negative. I have good hope indeed that these elections will be able to be as fair and just as every Zambian would like them to be. [end recording]

Burkina Faso

Compaore Receives Soviet Envoy, Hails Gorbachev

AB2308183391 Ouagadougou Radiodiffusion Nationale du Burkina Radio in French 0630 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Yesterday the head of state, Captain Blaise Compaore, received in audience the Soviet ambassador to Burkina Faso. The talks between the two men centered on the situation in Moscow, and after his audience with the head of state, Yevgeniy Korendyasov spoke to Joseph Sama of the national television network:

[Begin recording] [Korendyasov] As you know, a few days ago some unfortunate events happened in the Soviet Union. The people's vigilance and the Soviet people's commitment to the values of democracy, progress, and freedom foiled the unconstitutional attempted coup d'etat. I took advantage of this audience to give President Gorbachev's message to the president of Burkina Faso. This message says President Gorbachev is quite well, that he is in control, and that constitutional order has been restored in the country.

The Burkinabe head of state, Comrade Blaise Compaore, expressed his satisfaction and asked me to convey his congratulations and the sympathy and solidarity of the leadership and the people of Burkina Faso to President Gorbachev and the Soviet people.

[Sama] And what comments do you personally have on the return of President Gorbachev?

[Korendyasov] Like all Soviets, I am delighted that perestroika was defended and that during this deep crisis both President Gorbachev and President Yeltsin played vital roles making me believe that the program of reform in the government and in society is well rooted and that this process of reorganization of the Soviet society on the bases of democracy, freedom, and socio-economic progress is irreversible. [end recording]

Ivory Coast

President Sends Congratulations to Gorbachev

AB2308182591 Abidjan Radiodiffusion Ivoirienne Radio in French 1930 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Congratulatory message sent by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny in Abidjan on 22 August to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev following the recent abortive coup]

[Text] I learned with relief of the failure of the coup against you and your reassumption of the destiny of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

This return to legality is a clear victory of the forces of freedom and progress over those of oppression and regression. This is also a good example of courage shown by the Soviet people to the whole world. By so doing, the

Soviet people have proved that they are forever determined to turn their backs on a past of constraints of all kinds in order to see a future with optimism in freedom, dignity, and peace achieved under your enlightened leadership.

Furthermore, I am convinced that the relations of friendship and cooperation that fortunately exist between our countries will be reinforced and further diversified for the mutual benefit of our peoples and in prospect of a world of justice, solidarity, and peace.

Yours truly,

Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president of the Republic of Ivory Coast

Mali

Transition Committee, Cabinet Reshuffled

AB2608192791 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 1500 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] Here we are: What the Malian people have been waiting for has finally arrived. Indeed, the Transition Committee for the Salvation of the People, CTSP, held an extraordinary session 26 August at the People's Hall under the chairmanship of the head of state Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Toure. Items on the agenda for this meeting included changes in the CTSP composition and the cabinet reshuffle decided today.

Hence, as from 26 August 1991, the list of members of the CTSP is as follows:

Chairman: Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Toure of the National Reconciliation Council

Members representing the National Reconciliation Council:

Major Souleymane Sidibe
Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Tall
Doctor Major Mohamed Coulibaly
Major Yaya Ouattara
Major Mamadou Konipo
Major Lassine Kone
Captain Couloumoulou Diallo
Captain Tidiani Askofare
Captain Bakary Traore

Representatives of the Coordinating Committee of Democratic Associations and Organizations:

Bakary Karambe, National Union of Malian Workers, UNTM

Boisse Traore, UNTM

Ousmane Niare, UNTM

Abderahmane Baba Toure, Alliance for Democracy in Mali [ADM]

Mohamed Lamine Traore, ADM

Amidou Diabate, National Committee for Democratic Initiative [CNID]

Modibo Diakite, CNID
Counselor Mbam Diarra, Malian Association for Human Rights [AMHD]
Counselor Mamadou Dante, AMHD
Oumar Mariko, Malian Association of University and Other Students
Moussa Keita, Youth Association for Democracy and Progress
Sidi Kamara, Association of Graduate Initiators and Seekers of Employment
Omar Wague, Free and Democratic Youth
Acherif Ag Mohammed, Azawad Popular Movement
Malemine Ould Bady, Arab Islamic Azawad Front

As of today, 26 August 1991, the composition of the Government of the Republic of Mali is as follows:

Prime Minister and head of government: Soumana Sako
Minister of Economy and Finance: Bassary Toure
Minister of Agriculture, Stockbreeding, and Environment: Mrs. Sy Maimouna Ba
Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals: Mamadou Ouattara
Minister of Transports and Public Works: Lieutenant Colonel Tiecoura Doumbia
Minister of National Education: Issa Ndiaye
Minister of Budget: Oumar Kassougue
Minister of National Defense and Internal Security: Lieutenant Colonel Kanfougouna Kone
Minister of Territorial Administration: Major Moussa Diabate
Minister of Public Service and Labor: Daba Diawara
Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Malians Abroad: Tieble Drame
Minister of Planning and International Cooperation: Mrs. Cisse Mariam Haidama Sidibe
Minister of Mines, Water Supply, and Energy: Karima Dembele
Minister of Communication, Culture, and Government Spokesman: Sada Diarra
Minister of Public Health, Social Welfare, and Women's Promotion: Mrs. Diakite Fatoumata Ndiaye
Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts: Mohamed Ag Erlaf
Minister in Charge of General Control of the State: (Konimba Sidibe)
Minister in Charge of Relations With the CTSP and Associations: Amadou Modi Diall
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of Sports and Youth Promotion: Mamadou Fane
Secretary of State to the Prime Minister in Charge of Institutional Reforms and Decentralization: (Omara Fofana)
Secretary of State for Internal Security: Lieutenant Colonel Birama Sire Traore

Toure Congratulates Gorbachev on Return to Power

AB2308182991 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 1300 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] After the failure of the conservative coup d'etat in the Soviet Union, Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumany Toure, chairman of the Transition Committee for the Salvation of the People, sent the following message to the Soviet president:

It is with great satisfaction that we learned of the restoration of constitutional legitimacy in your country. This action constitutes a victory for the Soviet people, mobilized around the ideals of peace, progress, and democracy. The people of Mali, the Transition Committee for the Salvation of the People and the government, send you their sincere congratulations and assure you of their firm support for the successful implementation of the reforms undertaken in your country.

Niger

National Conference Imposes Sanctions on Officials

AB2708134091 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Text] In Niamey, after the Sunday break the national conference deliberations resumed this morning following a report on last week's deliberations. The presidium suggested the imposition of political and administrative sanctions against some top Armed Forces' officers who were involved in the 9 February 1990 affair. For details, here is Malam Yaro in Niamey:

[Yaro] Like Colonel Amadou Seyni Maiga, political secretary of the former National Movement for the Development Society [MNSD] State-Party and current inspector general of the National Armed Forces, Lieutenant Colonel (Torga Ayinikwe), the current prefect of Tahoua, and two high-ranking police officers—the deputy secretary general of the national police service and the director of state security—have been relieved of their duties. This proposal by the presidium led to heated debates in the conference hall. Some delegates felt that these decisions were hasty and that the conference runs the risk of becoming arbitrary. This is the case of MNSD spokesman Nassara Hama Ahmadou, who believes that the conference should leave justice to take its normal course before taking any steps.

[Begin Ahmadou recording] We are suggesting that after hearing the various persons involved in the case, justice must be left to take its course so that depending on the outcome of the investigations, the judiciary can establish the responsibility of each of them, take the necessary steps to relieve some people of their duties, and charge them according to their level of culpability. [end recording]

[Yaro] The presidium also suggested the temporary release of five of the six policemen who have been kept in prison for more than a year because of this affair. At any

rate, no final decision was reached at the end of the discussions. The leaders of the various groups will meet again soon to finalize the decision of the presidium. Discussions currently continue on economic issues.

Nigeria

Commentary on Foiled Coup in Soviet Union

AB2508174591 *Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English*
1030 GMT 25 Aug 91

[Dada Ishola commentary]

[Text] After three days of uncertainty and anxiety, during which communist hardliners and the Soviet ruling apparatus attempted to remove president Mikhail Gorbachev, normalcy has eventually returned to the Soviet Union. There is no doubt that a lot of lessons can be learned from the failed coup. Firstly, the hardliners misjudged the mood of the Soviet people and were too optimistic about their chances of success. It was rather naive of the coup plotters not to have gauged correctly that the Soviet people have enjoyed so much from the fruits of Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost in the past five years that they would not like to go back to the pre-Gorbachev era.

One thing the coup plotters seems to have forgotten is that human beings value freedom more than anything else. True, food is very important, but people are no longer prepared to lose their freedom for a mess of pottage. Another thing is that the Moscow gang of eight also failed in their assessment of the loyalty of the military. They were immature to believe that the Army and the KGB will back their adventure. Not after the events of the past two years, particularly the declaration of independence by the Baltic states and the successful defiance by their leaders of the authorities in Moscow.

The ascendance of democracy in the Soviet Union, which made it possible for democratic elections to be held in Moscow, Leningrad, Georgia, and of course in the Baltic Republics, ought to have given the coup plotters the signal that the move towards political democratization and economic reforms initiated by Gorbachev had become irreversible. Furthermore, the Moscow gang underrated the possible reaction of the international community.

However, the people who should learn more from the misadventure of the Soviet Union are African leaders, especially those beleaguered ones. Firstly, they have learned that in diplomatic [word indistinct], particularly when it concerns a world power, it is better to err on the side of caution in taking sides. Therefore, it was both reckless and wrong to pitch camp when the situation was still not quite clear. It is quite embarrassing that some African countries acted prematurely in aligning themselves with the coup plotters without considering their chances.

No less important a lesson is the fact that the aborted coup is an eye-opener to people in such African countries who can now stand up against their leaders using their

support for the Moscow gang as an excuse. If the Soviet rebels had succeeded, African and developing world leaders would have been encouraged in their sit-tight practice. For too long, Africans have complained of lack of progress and development.

But try as they may, economic development has continued to be elusive because of political instability such as the Moscow putsch tried to establish. Economic reforms, therefore, must go along with political education. Recent events in Eastern Europe have disproved the theory that a country can march forward without observing the tenets of democracy. But perhaps the most important lesson which the whole world can derive from the Moscow mishap is that the world is far from being free of opportunists who take pleasure in perpetrating conflicts so that they can benefit from their spoils.

It seems true the Cold War era has ended giving way to peaceful coexistence, because there is rapprochement and sworn enemies have become friends, but the danger to be avoided is not to allow this defeat to breed a one-sided power base. Although the coup in the Soviet Union has been aborted, the unfolding scenario shows that the country cannot be the same again. But the truth is that a weakened Soviet Union cannot be a position to provide the balance of power to the United States, and this will not augur well for peace in developing countries.

One can only hope that the Soviet debacle should serve as a lesson to mankind in its quest for peace in the world, because a lopsided power potential brings to mind the Nostradamus prediction. And may God forbid.

NEW NIGERIAN on Soviet 'Political Demise'

AB2708131091 *Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English*
1030 GMT 26 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] The NEW NIGERIAN, in a front-page editorial, says the failed coup in USSR by communist hardliners that sought to unseat Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev was in a sense not unexpected. After half a decade of systematic hewing away of the powers of the Communist Party undertaken by Mr. Gorbachev in his bid to restore political and economic liberalism into Soviet Union, it would have been foolhardy to expect that those from whose grip power and privilege were being wrested would stand by and watch. It was a classic last-ditch effort to regain the high ground, the NEW NIGERIAN comments. The paper says it will be hardly fair to the coupists to hold that they were impelled only by private ambitions. As Guennadi Ianaiev said on being arrested: All I wanted to do was improve the economy.

The NEW NIGERIAN points out that for all intents and purposes, what used to be known as Soviet Union has ceased to exist as a geopolitical entity. Already, a number of Baltic states—Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, long

[word indistinct]—have declared themselves independent. Power and authority now lie effectively in the hands of Mr. Boris Yeltsin and his Russian Republic.

The paper is of the opinion that the international ramification of the political demise of USSR, as we used to know it, is hard to predict. For once, it leaves the world with only one superpower, the USA, and unless a greater Europe emerges to form a counterpoise to the power of the USA with all the danger of a highly likely irresponsible use of that power, Mr. Gorbachev, in his retirement, may have to chuckle that his glasnost and perestroika were a huge gamble with the fate of the world.

Togo

Eyadema Meets With Conference Executive Bureau

AB2708161091 Lome Voix de la Nouvelle Marche
Network in French 1230 GMT 27 Aug 91

[Text] At his Lome II private residence today, the head of state, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, granted a long audience to the executive bureau of the Togolese national conference led by its chairman, Monsignor Philippe Fanoko Kpodzro. The discussions between the head of state and the presidium took place in the presence of government members. It will be recalled that yesterday the head of state, Gen. Gnassingbe Eyadema, applied a temporary suspension decree against the deliberations of this conference and made a statement to the nation. In this statement he stressed the need for such a suspension. He gave three reasons for taking this step: the failure of the conference to respect the 12 June agreements, the constitution of the transitional period lifting all substantial powers from him, and the charges of an assassination plot levelled against him and three ministers of the government.

Despite the suspension order decided yesterday noon by the head of state, the national conference continued with its deliberations last night until midnight. During the session, the delegates elected lawyer Kouakou Koffigoh, chairman of the Togolese Bar Association, as transitional prime minister. He was elected by consensus after the withdrawal of Mr. Gnininvi, who came in second during the first round of elections. Mr. Koffigoh, who was ahead with 385 votes, was followed by Mr. Gnininvi with 312 votes. Other candidates also took part in the elections. The conference also elected the members of the High Council of the Republic that is made up of 70 delegates, representing the Togolese professional bodies, the political parties, and associations.

Details on Prime Minister Election, Communications

AB2708163591 Paris AFP in English 1520 GMT
27 Aug 91

[By Alain Bommenel]

[Text] Lome, Aug 27 (AFP)—Opponents of Togo's military ruler General Gnassingbe Eyadema elected their own prime minister at a national conference here as international

communications links were cut off for 15 hours and troops took control of radio and television facilities.

Leaders of the conference met with Eyadema on Tuesday and the situation appeared calm after Monday's tension. Soldiers who appeared on the streets on Monday and surrounded the conference hotel were not in evidence Tuesday and the situation at radio and television headquarters was normal.

The country's borders with Togo and Benin were reopened on Tuesday. There were no immediate details of the outcome of the meeting with Eyadema.

The 1,000 delegates to the conference, defying an order Monday from Eyadema for the meeting to disband, elected Kokou Koffigoh, 43, president of the Togolese League for Human Rights, as their transitional prime minister. In France, the French Foreign Ministry expressed "satisfaction" at Koffigoh's election, saying it showed "dialogue prevails and that the democratic process continues in Togo".

On Friday, the conference decided to transfer most of the powers of the head of state to a transitional prime minister until general elections planned for early 1992. The military leadership has rejected the decisions of the conference and the 12,000-man army, considered loyal to Eyadema, was placed on alert Monday.

In ordering a temporary suspension of the conference, Eyadema, who has ruled this French-speaking West African nation for 24 years, claimed that participants were moving away from democracy and heading towards "revolution".

Troops took over the main radio and television station here immediately after the president's speech and a live television broadcast of the proceedings of the national conference abruptly went off the air. International telex and telephone links, which were cut around 2:30 p.m. on Monday, were restored around 6:00 a.m. Tuesday. Communications were restored for about 15 minutes during the night.

The national conference has been meeting at a downtown hotel here since July 8.

Delegates also voted during the night to dissolve Togo's sole legal political party, the Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais (RPT) founded by Eyadema in 1969, and elected their own legislative body.

The national conference was due to formally end on Wednesday.

The French Foreign Ministry communique said France hoped for "maximum cooperation" between Eyadema and Koffigoh so that the transitional period up to next year's general elections "takes place in peace and national understanding".

Kokou Koffigoh, the 43-year-old lawyer elected transitional prime minister, is a vocal human rights leader and has played a major role in Togo's moves toward democracy over the past several months. His independent

Togolese Human Rights League claims more than 1,000 members. It was formed last year.

In 1976, he was registered at the Poitiers bar association in France, and rose to head Togo's bar association in 1990.

Koffigoh has the reputation of being a moderate political opponent, having recently engaged in dialogue with Eyadema's 24-year military government.

The new prime minister has kept a low profile during the national conference. "I will have had no greater satisfaction than to have contributed along with the democratic opposition in the fight for the Togolese people," he said in a statement distributed during the conference.

Eyadema's Suspension Ignored, Life Said Normal

*AB2708190091 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 27 Aug 91*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The national conference in Togo seems to be having a rough ride recently, or at least that was the impression given yesterday when President Eyadema said on television that he was temporarily postponing its proceedings. Reports on our program and other international media even said that the president surrounded the conference with troops and was using strong arm tactics. Communications were temporarily cut and tensions were apparently high, but now a clearer picture has emerged. In fact, by the early hours of this morning not only had the conference continued to sit but it had elected a new prime minister, indicating that there had perhaps been a clash of wills between the president and the conference. On the line to our correspondent, Godwin Ebo, whom we have now been able to contact in Lome, Elizabeth Ohene, asked whether the conference participants were taking it that they had won the clash.

[Begin recording] [Ebo] I think you will be right if you say that the delegates ignored the president and went ahead to elect their own prime minister. In fact, the suspension announcement did not seem to have any effect at all, whatsoever, on proceedings yesterday. Members looked unruffled; they were very, very well composed, and they seemed to be in the mood for a fight if it became necessary.

[Ohene] So has the newly elected prime minister kind of assumed duties today? Is he being prime minister?

[Ebo] He was elected around midnight yesterday, and proceedings did not come to an end until 3 AM this morning. So that shows how determined the national conference was about this issue, and immediately following his election, Bishop Kpodzro, president of the presidium, proclaimed him prime minister. In fact, he was sworn into office, solemnly sworn into office, and he, Mr. Koffigoh, swore an oath of office almost immediately afterwards.

[Ohene] So has he proceeded to be prime minister today? Has he done anything to indicate he is prime minister?

[Ebo] Today Mr. Koffigoh and other members of the presidium, including Bishop Kpodzro, paid a call on President Gnassingbe Eyadema in his private residence at the outskirts of Lome. Ostensibly they must have discussed ways and means of resolving the impasse, but so far no communique has been issued. But certainly, yes, he is in the saddle as prime minister of the interim transition.

[Ohene] Now yesterday, whatever must have happened, at least certainly one thing is for sure: that Togo was cut off from the outside world; there were no telecommunication links with the country. Now what happened?

[Ebo] It was quite a critical situation. Most of us found ourselves totally blacked out; we had no means of connecting with the outside world; we had no means of making any telephone calls, no telex facilities, no fax facilities. It was a very critical thing. We do not know why this was done, but everybody was certainly agitated; people were worried about it. It appears that the government wanted to preempt any outside intervention in this matter.

[Ohene] You mean people assumed that it was the government that cut off the link?

[Ebo] It is not a question of assuming; it was a fact that the government actually cut off the links with the outside world.

[Ohene] There were reports, since shown not to have been true, that government troops had surrounded some strategic points in Lome, like where the conference was being held and around the radio and television stations. Now was there anything at all like that yesterday?

[Ebo] On the contrary, there was no troop movement at all in Lome yesterday. Around the conference hall, there was not a single soldier to be seen. In fact, soldiers who were on ordinary duty at the conference left in anger and disgust immediately after hearing President Eyadema's pronouncement on national radio and television. They left in anger, so certainly there were no soldiers at all around. Only a milling crowd of militant youth who became agitated after hearing the radio and television announcement. They came in their teeming, teeming numbers—thousands of them—to offer protection to the delegates. So there were no troop movement at all and no soldiers were posted around the hall.

[Ohene] What is the mood in Lome today? Are the conference delegates and other people taking it that they have won a famous victory?

[Ebo] Amazingly everything is very normal. The situation is normal; people are taking it easy; shops are open, the market is in session, and taxis are moving freely. The people seem to be so confident that their leaders, especially the newly elected prime minister, I mean they are very confident that they have the situation at hand and that their leaders are capable of resolving the issue, come what may! [end recording]

END OF

FICHE

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